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The Tech

Established 1881

Volume 132, Number 49

Tuesday, October 30, 2012

WEATHER, p. 2

TUE: 68°F | 57°F
Tropical storm

WED: 61°F | 45°F
Rain showers

THU: 56°F | 43°F
Mostly cloudy

MOHAMMED EHASANUL HOQUE

Hurricane Sandy's dark clouds loom over Boston on Monday afternoon. Winds were consistently gusting over 45 mph on Monday, and all MBTA services were suspended after 2:00 p.m.

MIT closed on Monday for hurricane

Boston prepared for Sandy; MBTA closed

By Jessica J. Pourian
EDITOR IN CHIEF

MIT was closed yesterday due to considerations for Hurricane Sandy. There were no classes, and all non-essential personnel were off work for the three shifts of the day. While most of MIT Medical was closed, Urgent Care remained open.

McCormick and Baker Dining were open with limited service yesterday evening, though Simmons Late Night was closed. The rest of the dining halls functioned as usual.

The MBTA shut down service at 2 p.m. Monday, and all U.S. markets closed in preparation for the storm. This was the first market-wide shutdown since September 2001. Markets will remain closed today, though the MBTA is still planning to operate as of this writing.

The Tech has compiled a Sandy FAQ which can be found at *http://techblogs.mit.edu/news/2012/10/hurricane-sandy-faq-how-not-to-get-eaten-by-your-labmate*.

The Institute announced its closing at 8:15 p.m. Sunday through *http://emergency.mit.net*, MIT's website for communicating campus emergencies. Alerts were sent to cell phones around

Sandy, Page 12

'Fiscal cliff' could lower MIT funding

Expected 8–10 percent research funding cuts unless Congress revises

By Anne Cai
NEWS EDITOR

The potential "fiscal cliff" at the end of 2012 would slash the U.S. federal budget across the board, hitting the nearly $475 million MIT receives from the government each year for research. The Institute could see up to 10 percent cuts in its federal research funding, according to Vice President for Research and Associate Provost Claude R. Canizares.

Congress passed the Budget Control Act of 2011 as a result of highly contentious and partisan budget negotiations, intended to force legislators to pass a responsible budget. In previous years, Congress had approved raising the debt ceiling with less turmoil, but the Budget Control Act of 2011 came with new strings attached: if the Joint Select Committee on Deficit Reduction ("the supercommittee") could not agree on a $1.2 trillion deficit reduction package by Nov. 23, 2011, or if its proposal was voted down by Congress, then automatic budget cuts known as "sequestration" would become effective. Sequestration involves funding cuts across the board, about half of which would

Funding, Page 10

IN SHORT

UROP applications for credit and volunteer are due Wednesday! Make sure to fill one out and register with an Add/Drop form!

Second quarter PE classes start today. Be sure to claim your spot!

The Spring Weekend survey is now open! Vote for which artist you want to play at MIT.

JASWANTH MADHAVAN—THE TECH

Children of different ages wearing Halloween costumes meet Tim the Beaver at HallowMIT on Saturday, the 27th of October at Z Center. The annual event is hosted by MIT Recreation and the Association for Student Activities, and is primarily a fun event for children.

Paintballs may deflect an incoming asteroid

With 20 years notice, paint pellets could cause an asteroid to veer off its course

By Jennifer Chu
MIT NEWS OFFICE

In the event that a giant asteroid is headed toward Earth, you'd better hope that it's blindingly white. A pale asteroid would reflect sunlight — and over time, this bouncing of photons off its surface could create enough of a force to push the asteroid off its course.

How might one encourage such a deflection? The answer, according to an MIT graduate student: with a volley or two of space-launched paintballs.

Sung Wook Paek SM '12, a graduate student in MIT's Department of Aeronautics and Astronautics, says if timed just right, pellets full of paint powder, launched in two rounds from a spacecraft at relatively close distance, would cover the front and back of an asteroid, more than doubling its reflectivity, or albedo. The initial force from the pellets would bump an asteroid off course; over time, the sun's photons would deflect the asteroid even more.

Paek's paper detailing this unconventional strategy won the 2012 Move an Asteroid Technical Paper Competition, sponsored by the United Nations' Space Generation Advisory Council, which solicits creative solutions to space-related problems from students and young professionals. Paek presented his paper this month at the International Astronautical Congress in Naples, Italy.

The challenge put forth by this year's U.N. competition was to identify novel solutions for safely deflecting a near-Earth object, such as an asteroid. Scientists have proposed a wide variety of methods to avoid an asteroid collision. Some proposals launch a projectile or spacecraft to collide with an incoming asteroid; the European Space Agency is currently investigating such a mission.

Other methods have included detonating a nuclear bomb near an asteroid or equipping spacecraft as "gravity tractors," using a craft's gravitational field to pull an asteroid off its path.

Paek's paintball strategy builds on a solution submitted by last year's competition winner, who proposed deflecting an asteroid with a cloud of solid pellets. Paek came up with a similar proposal, adding paint to the pellets to take advantage of solar radiation pressure — the force exerted on objects by the sun's photons. Researchers

Paintball, Page 11

MENS ET MANUS ET VOLUNTAS

Volunteering is central to the Institute's mission.
OPINION, p. 4

IMPROVING ACCESSIBILITY

The needs of deaf students are not being met. **OPINION, p. 4**

THE PERFECT STORM

Sandy around the Institute.
PHOTO, p. 12

MIT DEFEATS AN UNDEFEATED TEAM

How is MIT football faring this season? **SPORTS, p. 8**

NBA PREDICTIONS

The Tech takes on a different kind of a forecast.
SPORTS, p. 13

SECTIONS

World & Nation . . .2
Opinion 4
Fun Pages 6
Sports 8

In Turkey, break from the past plays out in the streets

ISTANBUL — At a reception Monday evening at the president's mansion to celebrate Turkey's founding 89 years ago, something previously unheard of occurred: The country's top military commander stood alongside the wives of the president and prime minister, even while the women wore Islamic headscarves.

In years past the military elite would never have stood beside women wearing a symbol long at the center of Turkey's struggle over the role of religion in public life. These men were heirs to the traditions of Turkey's secularist founder, Mustafa Kemal Ataturk, who zealously banished religion from public life. They had for years refused to attend such gatherings — in protest of the headscarf.

But the scene from the reception Monday was broadcast on television, and for many Turks the striking image underscored an emphatic break from a past when civilian leaders were subservient to the military, and Islam was filtered from public life.

"The Turkish army is now withdrawing from politics," said Taha Akyol, a columnist for Hurriyet, a Turkish daily newspaper.

—Tim Arango, The New York Times

Italy and Spain keeping Central Bank's offer on the shelf

MADRID — The leaders of Spain and Italy insisted Monday that neither country had near-term plans to invoke the bond-buying program that the European Central Bank had offered, nor to support a recent proposal for a supercommissioner who might intervene in national budgets.

Instead, both the Spanish prime minister, Mariano Rajoy, and his Italian counterpart, Mario Monti, insisted that they would continue to push for rapid adoption of a European fiscal and banking union.

"With regard to the European agenda, Spain and Italy are more united than ever," Rajoy said at a joint news conference with Monti.

Rajoy has been under pressure to tap a bond-buying program announced by Mario Draghi, the ECB president, in early September. But he has refused to leap at the opportunity, and Monday he said that Madrid would ask for such funding only when he felt it was "convenient" to do so. Monti also dismissed the idea that Italy would need such help to meet its immediate refinancing obligations.

—Raphael Minder, The New York Times

US tries to coordinate anti-militant push in Mali

ALGIERS, Algeria — Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton arrived in Algeria on Monday as the United States sought to coordinate support for an emerging international effort to push Islamic militants out of northern Mali.

"One of the things that the secretary wants to talk about is how we would see this working," a senior State Department official said before a scheduled meeting between Clinton and the Algerian president, Abdelaziz Bouteflika.

An array of Islamist militant groups have seized control of northern Mali, including al-Qaida in the Islamic Maghreb. The area has emerged as a haven for terrorists.

Earlier this month, the U.N. Security Council adopted a resolution underscoring its "readiness" to send an international force to evict the militants in response to a request from the Mali government.

While a military plan has yet to be drafted, the basic idea is for forces from Nigeria and other West Africa countries to help Mali's military mount a campaign against the militants. France, the U.S. and other countries would help with training, intelligence and logistics.

—Michael R. Gordon, The New York Times

Low voter turnout in Sicily suggests anger at politicians

By Elisabetta Povoledo
THE NEW YORK TIMES

ROME — Sicilians shunned regional elections to renew the island's Parliament on Sunday in record numbers, in an unequivocal signal of growing disaffection with Italy's political class, even as the center-left wrested control from center-right parties that had governed the region since 2000.

A little over 47 percent of Sicily's eligible voters turned out, a record low, down from 67 percent in the 2008 elections, according to the Electoral Office of the Sicily Region. Another pointer of widespread malaise was the surprising success of the Five Star Movement, a nascent protest group. Headed by Beppe Grillo, a sardonic comedian turned political guru, Five Star has surged in a series of local elections this year on a campaign to overthrow the existing political order. With half the ballots counted, the movement had won about 18 percent of the vote.

Grillo campaigned actively in Sicily, swimming across the channel that separates the island from the rest of Italy, scaling its active volcano, Mount Etna, and drawing thousands of Sicilians to campaign rallies for his derisive standup routines. The party's candidate, Giancarlo Cancelleri, told Sky News on Monday, "It's possible that we got many protest votes to give a signal to the political parties." But he also said low turnout "is always a sign of defeat for politics."

Though local, the elections were closely watched as a possible harbinger of voter intent in national polls next April, when the main political parties appear poised to implode because of internal dissent.

The low turnout and success of a protest movement suggested that public tolerance of Italy's political class had dramatically dwindled after a series of corruption scandals that brought down regional leaders in Lazio and Lombardy.

The center-left candidate, Rosario Crocetta, was ahead in the polls at about 30 percent, running on a ballot with a multiparty alliance, while the results dealt a further blow to former Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi's People of Liberty party, whose candidate, Sebastiano Musumeci, was struggling to reach a little more than 25 percent of the vote.

Crocetta will have to forge alliances with other parties to have enough seats to form a majority.

The results also reflected Sicily's own problems, including chronic wastefulness and questionable administrative practices. On Monday, the ratings agency Fitch downgraded Sicily's credit ratings to the lowest rungs above speculative, or junk, grade.

The departing Sicily president, Raffaele Lombardo, who belongs to the Movement for Autonomy — which calls on Sicily to secede from Italy — and is under investigation on reported Mafia ties, resigned in July as the region struggled to balance its books. He denies the accusations and has not been formally charged.

Sunday's vote boded badly for Berlusconi's chosen successor in the People of Liberty party, Angelino Alfano, a Sicilian lawmaker who had largely staked his reputation on the outcome.

International observers denounce the Ukrainian election

By David M. Herszenhorn
THE NEW YORK TIMES

KIEV, Ukraine — International observers delivered scathing criticism Monday of Ukraine's parliamentary election, saying the vote was heavily tilted in favor of President Viktor F. Yanukovych's Party of Regions through the abuse of government resources, the dominance of media coverage and the jailing of two prominent opposition leaders.

"Considering the abuse of power, and the excessive role of money in this election, democratic progress appears to have reversed in Ukraine," said Walburga Habsburg Douglas, a Swedish lawmaker who led an observer mission for the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe's Parliamentary Assembly.

With nearly 80 percent of Sunday's ballots counted by Monday evening, the results showed the Party of Regions well ahead of its opponents, with about 33 percent of the vote.

The Fatherland party of the jailed former prime minister, Yulia V. Tymoshenko, was second in the early results, with about 24 percent. The results also showed the Communist Party with about 14 percent, followed by a party called Punch, led by boxing champion Vitali Klitschko, with 13 percent and the ultranationalist Freedom Party with 9 percent.

The election was closely watched as a gauge of developing democracy in this former Soviet republic of 45 million, once viewed as on a steady track toward integration with Europe after the Orange Revolution of 2004.

Framed in that context, the verdict by international observers was devastating.

Andreas Gross, a member of the Swiss Parliament who led a delegation to Ukraine from the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, said problems were so deep that even calling a new election would not help.

"We have systemic problems," Gross said. "To make a new election with the same rules, you get the same result."

The precise balance of power in the Ukrainian Parliament will not be known for several weeks because half of the 450 seats will be filled by candidates who did not have to declare a party affiliation ahead of Sunday's vote. They can choose later to align with a party.

The relatively strong showing by the right-wing Freedom party, whose leader, Oleg Tyagnibok, is known for espousing anti-Semitic and racist views, had not been predicted in opinion polls. In parliamentary elections five years ago, the party won less than 1 percent of the vote, far short of the threshold to control a faction in Parliament.

WEATHER

Hurricane Sandy strikes East Coast

By Shaena Berlin
STAFF METEOROLOGIST

The largest Atlantic hurricane in over 25 years made landfall on the New Jersey coast on Monday evening. High winds from Sandy have downed power lines and trees over a vast expanse of the U.S., from Florida all the way to Maine. Blizzard warnings are in effect over parts of the Appalachians, where a cold Arctic air mass clashed with the moisture-laden air rotated counter-clockwise from the Atlantic Ocean. Peak tide levels and coastal flooding may overtop that observed in New York during Hurricane Irene last year.

In Cambridge, the wind intensity should begin to decrease today. The storm will linger in the Northeast for the next few days, sending scattered showers and gusty winds.

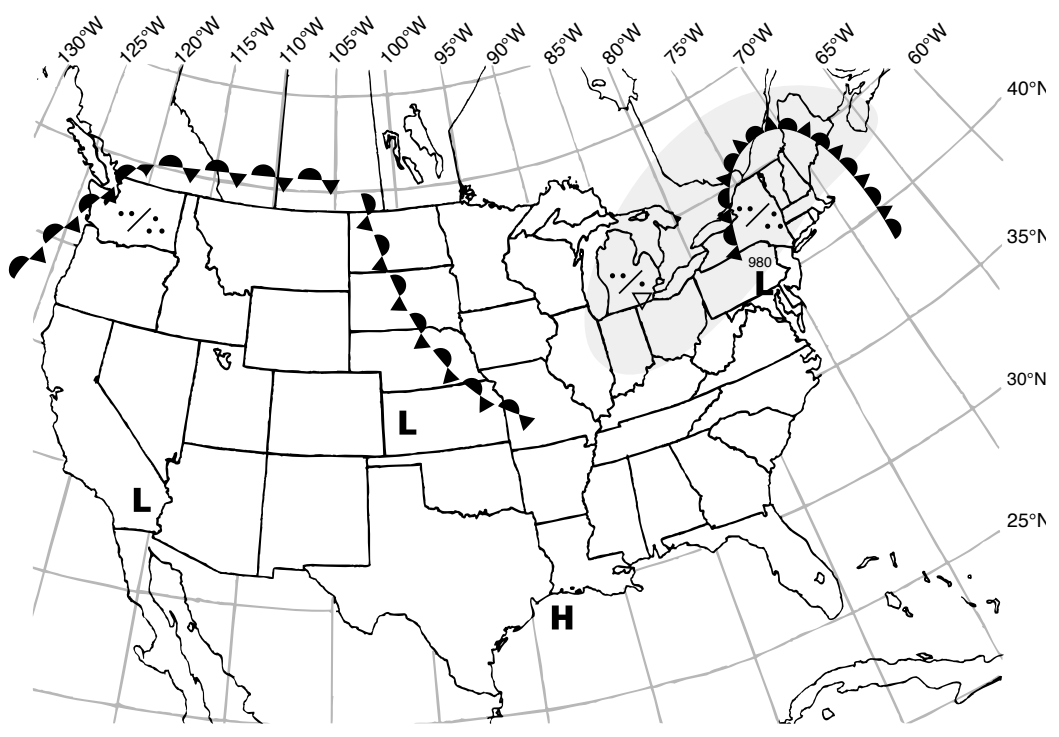
Extended Forecast

Tonight: Overcast with rain showers. Wind from the ESE at 15-20 mph. Low around 57°F (14°C).

Tomorrow: Cloudy with morning rain showers. High near 61°F (16°C). Low around 45°F (7°C). S wind at 10-15 mph.

Thursday: Mostly cloudy with a high around 56°F (13°C) and low of 43°F (6°C).

Friday: Mostly cloudy. High around 56°F (13°C) and low around 43°F (6°C).



Situation for Noon Eastern Time, Tuesday, October 30, 2012

Weather Systems	Weather Fronts	Precipitation Symbols			Other Symbols
H High Pressure	Trough		Snow	Rain	Fog
L Low Pressure	Warm Front	Showers	*	•	Thunderstorm
§ Hurricane	Cold Front	Light	*	•	Haze
	Stationary Front	Moderate	**	••	Compiled by MIT Meteorology Staff and *The Tech*
		Heavy	***	•••	

Attacks continue during failed holiday truce in Syria

By Neil MacFarquhar
THE NEW YORK TIMES

BEIRUT — The declared four-day holiday truce between the warring factions in Syria ended on Monday much as it had begun — with airstrikes, artillery barrages and other firefights around the country that made a mockery of the cease-fire.

Even to the last, citizens caught up in violence held out hope for a brief lull.

"I told myself I should take advantage of this truce to go visit some relatives," said a woman willing to be identified only by her nickname, Um Samer, 32. Instead, as she described via Skype, a walk down the street from her house in the Damascus suburb of Hajar al-Aswad was interrupted on Monday when a government missile slammed into a minibus about 200 yards away from her.

"I saw kids cut in pieces and a driver with half his body gone," she said. "How is it that we don't have any value? Are we not human like other people?"

That was just one of the attacks Monday in what activists called one of the worst days of air raids against the suburbs of the capital since the uprising began as a peaceful protest movement in March 2011.

The strikes against Hajar al-Aswad left at least 10 people dead, eight of them in a minibus collective taxi, and many wounded, according to the Local Coordinating Committee and other opposition activists.

The government also accused the opposition of violating the cease-fire in multiple places, including exploding a car bomb in Jaramana, a Damascus neighborhood that is home to various minorities who still back the government. At least six people were killed and 50 wounded by the bomb, said SANA, the official news agency.

They were among scores of new victims of the violence during the putative lull. Clashes were reported scattered throughout the country from Daraa in the south to Deir el-Zour in the east to the embattled northern city of Aleppo. Among other firefights in that city, Kurdish fighters in the neighborhood of Ashrafiyah continued to battle to prevent opposition militiamen from taking over their quarter.

Lakhdar Brahimi, the envoy for the United Nations and the Arab League who tried to negotiate the truce, expressed disappointment that it had collapsed virtually from the start, although the fighting seemed to slow Friday.

"I am terribly sorry," Brahimi told a news conference in Moscow, "that this appeal has not been heard at the level we hoped it would." He will continue working to try to reduce the level of violence, he said, demanding greater international pressure on both sides in Syria.

Brahimi was visiting Moscow and Beijing, the main international backers of President Bashar Assad, ahead of presenting a plan to the Security Council next month toward a negotiated settlement. It will be based on an agreement that all five permanent members of the Security Council reached in Geneva last June.

Court hears challenge to 2008 law letting US eavesdrop

By Adam Liptak
THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON — A challenge to a federal law that authorized intercepting international communications involving Americans appeared to face an uphill climb at the Supreme Court on Monday, but not one quite as steep as many had anticipated.

The question in the case was whether journalists, lawyers and human rights advocates could show they had been harmed and so had standing to sue, and several justices seemed open to the idea.

If the case is dismissed for lack of standing, there is a fair prospect that the Supreme Court will never rule on the constitutionality of the law, a 2008 measure that broadened the government's power to eavesdrop on international communications. The law, an amendment to the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act, was passed after the 2005 disclosure of the Bush administration's secret program to wiretap international communications of people inside the United States without obtaining court warrants. The electronic spying, intended to help pursue terrorists, began after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks.

The 2008 law was challenged by Amnesty International, the American Civil Liberties Union and other groups and individuals, including journalists and lawyers who represent prisoners held at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. The plaintiffs said the law violated their rights under the Fourth Amendment by allowing the government to intercept their international telephone calls and emails. Some of the plaintiffs said they now meet clients or sources only in person.

The possibility that the courts may never rule on the constitutionality of the law seemed to rankle some of the justices.

"Is there anybody who has standing?" Justice Sonia Sotomayor asked.

Solicitor General Donald B. Verrilli Jr. said there might be if the government sought to introduce evidence in a criminal proceeding that it had gathered under the law. Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg said that was unlikely given the nature of the surveillance.

"I see the theoretical possibility," she said, "but I don't see a real person who would be subject to a federal charge who could raise an objection."

Justice Antonin Scalia responded that some laws are beyond judicial review.

"We've had cases in the past where it is clear that nobody would have standing to challenge what is brought before this court," he said. "That just proves that under our system of separated powers, it is none of our business."

Justice Elena Kagan pressed Verrilli on whether he or any other competent and ethical lawyer should communicate with clients and sources in the face of the possibility of government surveillance under the 2008 law.

Judge in Trayvon Martin case denies request for silence

By Lizette Alvarez
THE NEW YORK TIMES

MIAMI — The judge in the Trayvon Martin murder case on Monday denied a prosecution request to bar lawyers for George Zimmerman from using a website about legal issues, as well as social and traditional news media, to comment about the case.

"There has not been an overriding pattern of prejudicial commentary that will overcome reasonable efforts to select a fair and impartial jury," Judge Debra S. Nelson of Seminole County Circuit Court said in her ruling.

This is the second time the prosecution's request has been denied. In April, Judge Kenneth Lester, the previous judge in the case, rejected a motion that lawyers be silenced on the Zimmerman matter outside the courtroom. Lawyers in the case sparred during a hearing Friday over whether the prohibition, which also would have applied to the prosecution, was necessary to ensure an impartial jury. A trial is scheduled for June 10.

Lawyers for several news media organizations, including The New York Times, also had gone to court to oppose the request.

Zimmerman, 29, is charged with second-degree murder in the Feb. 26 shooting death of Martin, an unarmed 17-year-old, as he walked to a house in a Sanford, Fla., gated community where he was a guest. Zimmerman, who is free on bail, was the neighborhood watch leader and told the police that Martin appeared suspicious. The killing provoked widespread anger and attention around the country, calling into question Florida's gun laws and whether racial profiling played a role in the killing of Martin, who was black.

Prosecutors requested the order again, arguing that Mark O'Mara, Zimmerman's lawyer, was jeopardizing the trial by making prejudicial statements to the traditional media and using a legal blog, Facebook page and Twitter posts to disseminate his opinions. The Facebook page is no longer active.

"Why was this website created?" Bernie de la Rionda, the prosecutor in the case, asked in court Friday. "Was it done to influence public opinion? I would submit that is the real reason."

But O'Mara told the judge Friday that he made the unusual move of creating a legal website and using social media as a way to counter the volumes of negative publicity that surround Zimmerman. O'Mara said that early on in the case, the Martin family, through their attorneys and a publicist, unleashed a campaign to "sway national opinion" by portraying Zimmerman as a racist.

This is "why today he is wearing a bulletproof vest and living in hiding," O'Mara said.

US markets to be closed on Tuesday

Stock markets in the United States will be closed again Tuesday for a second day without trading as Hurricane Sandy roared closer to the New York area.

The New York Stock Exchange and BATS Global Markets said in separate statements that they have agreed to close, after consulting with other exchanges and clients. The NYSE added that it planned to operate on Wednesday, pending developments in weather conditions.

The decision came as little surprise, with market operators already hinting that they would stay closed as the storm's impact intensified. And the Securities Industry and Financial Market Association, an industry trade group, recommended that U.S. bond markets stay closed on Tuesday as well.

The two-day stoppage is the first weather-related closure of the U.S. stock markets since Hurricane Gloria in 1985. And it is the first unscheduled trading stoppage since the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

Representatives for the exchanges emphasized that the safety of their employees was paramount, relying on skeleton crews to run critical operations. And a slew of Wall Street firms, some of whose offices are based in evacuated areas of Manhattan, have asked employees to continue working remotely.

—Michael J. De La Merced, The New York Times

Chinese general promoted to lead missile corps

BEIJING — A former deputy chief of the army's general staff, Lt. Gen. Wei Fenghe, has been promoted to commander of the 2nd Artillery Corps, home of the strategic missile force, the Defense Ministry said Monday.

The new position as head of one of China's most important military units is part of a major turnover in China's armed forces and almost certainly assures Wei a seat on the Central Military Commission, the military's top decision-making body, currently headed by President Hu Jintao.

The new membership of the commission, which will oversee the rapid modernization of China's military, is expected to be announced after the 18th Party Congress next month.

Wei's promotion had been anticipated. He served as chief of staff of the corps between 2006 and 2010, and was involved in intercontinental ballistic missile testing in 1989, said Mark Stokes, the executive director of the Project 2049 Institute, in Washington, a nongovernmental organization that studies military issues in Asia.

"He is a professional soldier who has spent his whole career in the missile troops," Bo Zhiyue, a research fellow at the East Asian Institute at the National University of Singapore, said of Wei. "He is relatively young and will work for another decade. He will add to the professionalization of the 2nd Artillery Corps."

—Jane Perlez, The New York Times

Random House and Penguin to be combined

PARIS — The book publishing industry is getting smaller to get stronger.

Confirmation on Monday that Random House and Penguin will merge narrows the business to a handful of big players, led by a new international giant, Penguin Random House. And it could set off a long-awaited round of consolidation, analysts said.

Bertelsmann, the owner of Random House, and Pearson, which owns Penguin, said Monday that they had reached an agreement to combine the two houses to create the largest consumer book publisher in the world.

Analysts said the deal between Bertelsmann, of Germany, and Pearson, of Britain, would give the combined companies greater scale to deal with the challenges arising from the growth of electronic books and the power of Internet retailers.

Together, Penguin Random House would have a global market share of more than 25 percent, and a book list that includes contemporary best-sellers like Random House's "Fifty Shades of Grey" and Penguin's back list of classics from authors including George Orwell.

With e-book sales growing, publishers are increasingly worried about the leverage wielded by Internet giants like Google, Apple and, especially, Amazon. These companies have huge resources to invest in new technology, including digital sales platforms and algorithms that steer people toward books that match their interests. Their scale gives them the power to negotiate better terms on book prices.

—Eric Pfanner, The New York Times

Scott Brown pulls out of Senate debate in Massachusetts

BOSTON — Sen. Scott P. Brown's campaign announced Monday afternoon that he would not participate in his fourth and final debate with Elizabeth Warren, his Democratic challenger, on Tuesday night, citing Hurricane Sandy.

"It is simply not appropriate to go forward with a political debate when a disaster strikes," Colin Reed, a spokesman for Brown, said in a statement.

The announcement caught the debate sponsors by surprise as well as the moderator, John King of CNN, who had traveled to Boston on Sunday to beat the storm.

The Warren campaign subsequently issued a statement saying that Warren agreed that the debate should not be held.

A poll in the Boston Globe on Monday showed Brown in a dead heat with Warren, a positive turn of events for the Republican, who had been trailing in most recent polls.

Still, some political experts said Brown's pullout seemed risky.

"He appears to be slightly down in this race and he could use a big debate to change the dynamic," said Rob Gray, a Republican consultant not involved in the race.

—Katharine Q. Seelye, The New York Times

OPINION OPINION OPINION

Volunteers sustain the high quality of the Institute

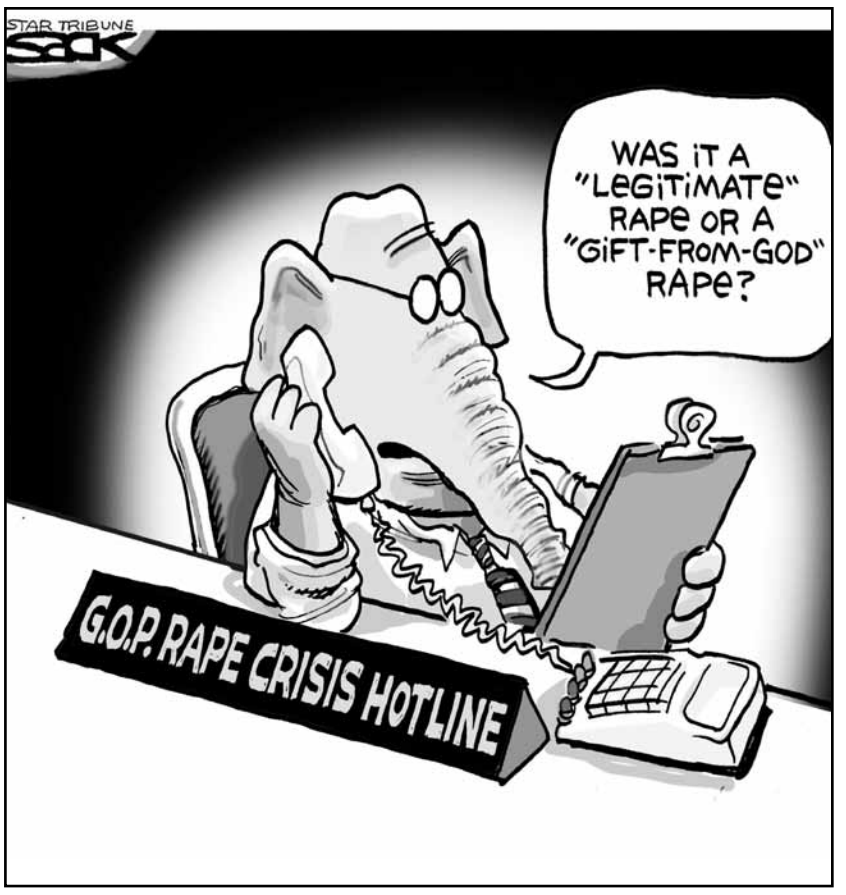
Voluntas, from Page 4

ter of MIT to include three basic functions — teaching, research, and public service. He branded his educational philosophy *mens et manus,* mind and hand. If he could have foreseen that the Institute would evolve philosophically to the extent it has, as a trinity of ways and means, he might well have expressed the core of his educational philosophy as *Mens et Manus et Voluntas.*

Vincent A. Fulmer is a member of the class of 1963. He is also the former Secretary of the MIT Corporation.

Volunteers...

- man the Freshman Advisory Council.
- offer Freshman Advisory Seminars.
- provide the content of UROP.
- populate student activities.
- participate in the Industrial Liaison Program.
- contribute to the student Public Works Center.
- govern student residences.
- organize and enrich athletics.
- offer IAP courses.
- offer short, professional summer courses.
- serve on corporation committees.
- serve on departmental advisory committees.
- interview prospective students for the Educational Council.
- conduct and donate blood drives.
- mentor entrepreneurial students.
- provide content for the MIT Enterprise Forum.
- serve as campus guides to visitors.
- communicate with alumni/alumnae.
- solicit gifts, grants, and bequests.
- represent MIT at conclaves.
- promote the arts at MIT.
- travel on behalf of MIT.
- help recruit minorities to MIT.
- write for the Technology Review.
- judge contents by others.
- test designs in studios and labs.
- serve as interns.
- tutor fellow students.
- offer on-line courses.
- act as subjects in research projects.
- compete for recognition and awards.
- demonstrate for favorite causes.
- are everywhere in mind and spirit.



The Tech is running a survey about stress at MIT.

Have something you want to know?

Email *surveys@tech.mit.edu* with question ideas.

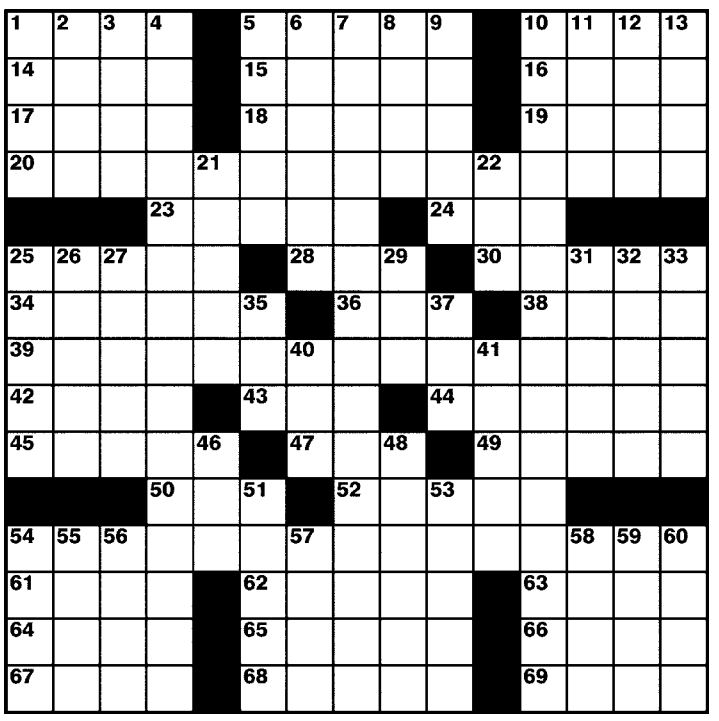
FUNFUNFUNF

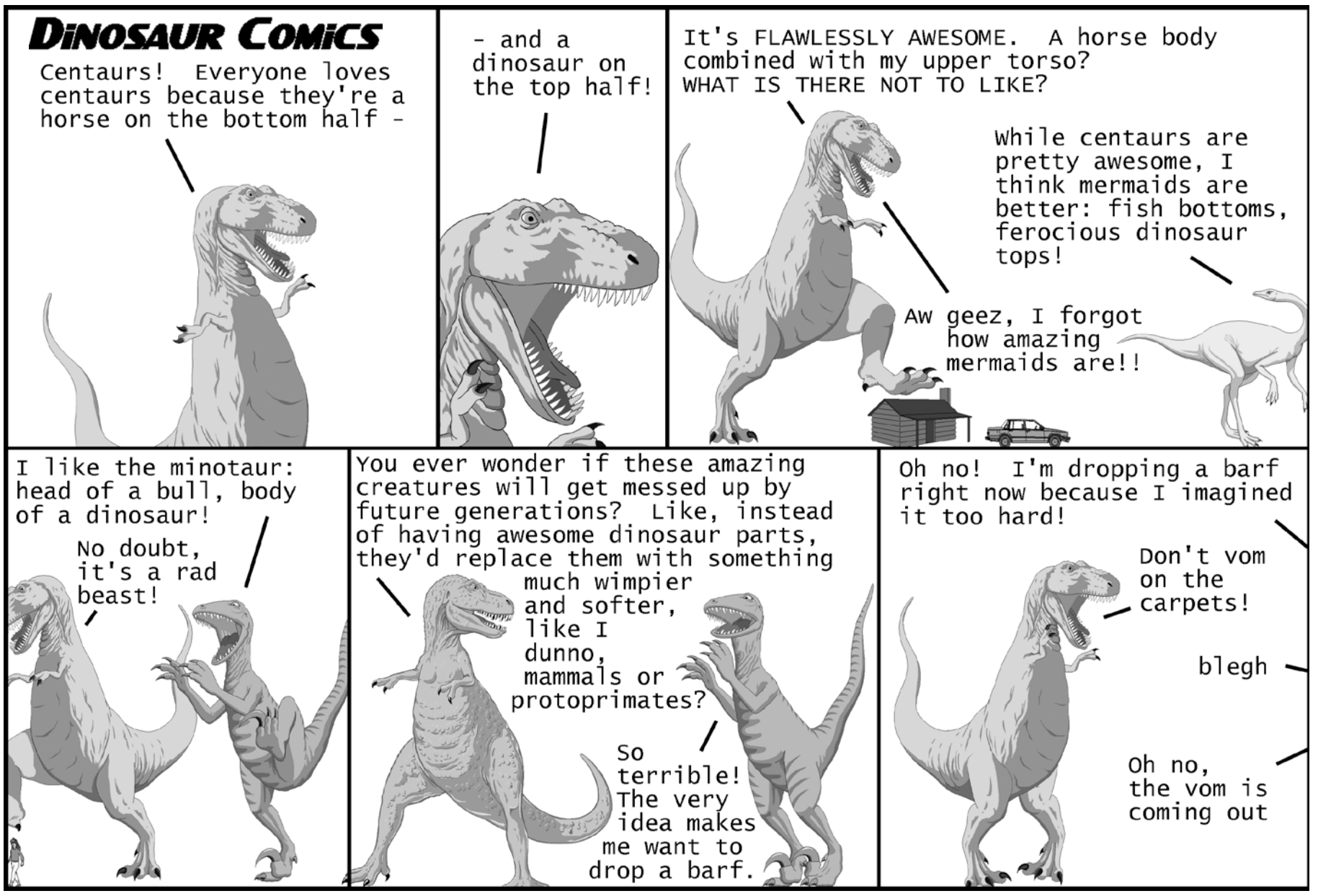
Saturday Stumper by Lars G Doubleday

Solution, page 10

ACROSS
1 "Hah!"
9 Where travelers may get their shots
15 It's free of charge
16 Principle of Puzo prose
17 Red army's enemy?
18 UPS Store convenience
19 Jug band instrument
20 Tatar tepee
21 Nick
22 Emmy winner as Carmela and Jackie
24 Gobsmack
26 Graduation, for example
28 Contract
30 Flip side of Satchmo's "A Kiss to Build a Dream On"
33 It's curious
35 Test the water, say
36 Inspiration for Infiniti's logo
39 In no uncertain terms
41 Green of Casino Royale
42 Success in a certain search
46 Wren, for one
48 Carreras' Met debut
52 "__ beast be lord of beasts . . .": Hamlet
53 Well-made product?
55 Fireball
56 Crown spot
59 Advance
61 Calendar-watch reading
62 Have joint tenancy
63 Descriptor for papers or pills
65 Solo exercises
66 Cop show staple
67 Unite
68 Document classification

DOWN
1 Before you know it
2 "No problema"
3 Finesse
4 Athlete competing for the Beehive Boot
5 Farm sound
6 Book before Philemon
7 Galilean concept
8 Haitian island setting of the Pirates of the Caribbean films
9 Resonant sound
10 Nero's love
11 Check
12 Tops in improbability
13 Marked up
14 2004 film that received an NAACP Image Award
23 Stationery choice
25 Battle Born St.
27 Pick out
29 Muslim honorific
31 Row
32 Minor key
34 Run __
36 Ground stuff
37 Point-and-click device
38 Right hand
40 Youngest major leaguer in 1994 and 1995
43 Social worker
44 Jam
45 Tennessee post captured by US Grant
47 Table salt, for example
49 Start to give way
50 Total, e.g.
51 Without imagination
54 Just as expected
57 "So true!"
58 Knock off
60 Tracks
62 Mo. in which the Nobel Prizes are awarded
64 Stir




DINOSAUR COMICS
Centaurs! Everyone loves centaurs because they're a horse on the bottom half -
- and a dinosaur on the top half!
It's FLAWLESSLY AWESOME. A horse body combined with my upper torso? WHAT IS THERE NOT TO LIKE?
While centaurs are pretty awesome, I think mermaids are better: fish bottoms, ferocious dinosaur tops!
Aw geez, I forgot how amazing mermaids are!!
I like the minotaur: head of a bull, body of a dinosaur!
No doubt, it's a rad beast!
You ever wonder if these amazing creatures will get messed up by future generations? Like, instead of having awesome dinosaur parts, they'd replace them with something much wimpier and softer, like I dunno, mammals or protoprimates?
So terrible! The very idea makes me want to drop a barf.
Oh no! I'm dropping a barf right now because I imagined it too hard!
Don't vom on the carpets!
blegh
Oh no, the vom is coming out

THIS IS A PAID ADVERTISEMENT

2:30 AM BY BUILDING 14 IS TIME FOR...
THE ALL NIGHTERS
THERE IT IS!
AH, THE 'OL TELOCULOSCOPE!
ARE YOU LOOKING FOR NEW SATELLITES? SPACE X SECRET LAUNCHES?
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HOW DO YOU KNOW IF SOMEONE IS CONCUSSED?
OOOOH...

MIT MEDICAL IS CLOSED OVERNIGHT. CALL THE 24-HOUR HELPLINE AT 617-253-4481

SPORTS SPORTS SPORTS

Federal funding to affect MIT research

Cuts to happen unless revised

Funding, from Page 1

hit defense, affecting research centers such as MIT's Lincoln Laboratory.

The supercommittee failed to agree on a deficit reduction package by the deadline, so sequestration will go into effect at the beginning of 2013, unless Congress passes additional legislation. Recipients of government money, including MIT, face the potential budget cuts, which would negatively impact all of MIT's federal research funding.

MIT's research budget

MIT's FY 2012 campus research expenditures totaled $681 million (not including Lincoln Laboratory), with $473 million (about 69 percent) sponsored by federal funding, according to Canizares at the Oct. 17 faculty meeting in a presentation titled "Planning for Possible Federal Budget Sequestration." As for FY 2011, according to *MIT Facts*, of the total $660.8 million in MIT's campus research expenditures, 23 percent was funded by the Department of Health and Human Services (which includes the National Institutes of Health), 16 percent by the Department of Defense, 14 percent by the Department of Energy, 11 percent by the National Science Foundation, 4 percent by NASA, and 3 percent by other miscellaneous federal funding. This sums to 71 percent of FY 2011's research expenditures being sponsored by some sort of federal funding that could be cut due to sequestration (the other 29 percent comes from industry, local/state/foreign governments, non-profits, and internal MIT funding). These federal research expenditures "include all primary contracts and grants, including sub-awards from other organizations where the federal government is the original funding source," according to the *2012 MIT Briefing Book*.

Lincoln Laboratory expended $846 million on research in FY 2012 — more than the rest of MIT combined — and $806.1 million in FY 2011, according to *MIT Facts* and Canizares' presentation. 88.57 percent of the 2011 amount came from the Department of Defense and 11.12 percent from other federal funding, with only a mere 0.31 percent coming from non-federal sources.

Effects of potential sequestration

Unless revised or rescinded by Congress, sequestration will take effect at the beginning of 2013, cutting discretionary budgets by about 8 to 10 percent for FY 2013 and beyond, noted Canizares in the Oct. 17 faculty meeting. As of now, Canizares said, MIT will assume all federal grants are vulnerable to 8 to 10 percent cuts, and Principal Investigators should adjust spending and especially new hiring with the assumption that full sequestration will be applied.

Look for more coverage of this issue in the next few weeks.

14 million votes already cast

Increase in early votes changes campaigning strategy

By Michael Cooper and Jeff Zeleny
THE NEW YORK TIMES

With more than one in three votes likely to be cast before Election Day this year, Republicans are stepping up their efforts to chip away at what has been a Democratic advantage in early voting in key battlegrounds like Ohio and North Carolina.

In Ohio, whose 18 electoral votes are at the center of the presidential race, more than 1 million votes have already been cast, highlighting a change in the political rhythm that has led Republicans to begin to embrace the belief long held by Democrats that early voting can be used to increase turnout, not just to shift votes from one day to another.

"Some Republicans don't like to vote early, they like to go on Election Day, I understand that," Sen. Rob Portman of Ohio, the state chairman of Mitt Romney's campaign, said at a campaign rally last week. "If you go down and vote, that frees you up to help others on Election Day."

When President Barack Obama flew home to Chicago last week to cast his ballot, he became one of the millions of Americans who have already voted — a flood of early votes that is reshaping how both campaigns operate.

The early vote gave Obama his margin of victory in several key states four years ago, and Democrats are trying to maintain that advantage this year by banking as many early votes as they can. But Republicans are trying to dampen any early Democratic edge by making a bigger organizational push than they did in the last election. Hurricane Sandy has introduced more uncertainty into the mix: It forced the closures of early voting sites in North Carolina and some in Virginia on Monday, and the storm could curtail early voting hours in other key states as it moves inland.

The every-day-is-Election-Day effects of early voting have transformed modern campaigning, from the splashy Bruce Springsteen concerts the Obama campaign organized this month to mobilize supporters to the polls, to the less-glamorous databases that the campaigns keep to track potential early voters, as their get-out-the-vote operations have stretched into weeks instead of one frantic day.

More than 14.3 million people have voted so far, according to Michael P. McDonald, an associate professor of government and politics at George Mason University who keeps tabs on early voting. He said that the pace of early voting this year suggested that 35 percent or more of all votes could be cast before Election Day, surpassing the previous record in 2008 when 30 percent voted early.

"Both registered Democrats and registered Republicans are voting at clips that are outpacing their 2008 levels," he said in an interview.

Both parties have been frantically spinning cherry-picked statistics to paint their early-vote operations as a success. While the true measure of their success will not be known until all the ballots are cast and counted, a look at who has voted early so far and where they live does give some meaningful indications of how the early vote is going in some of the key swing states where the election will be decided.

Democrats appear to have an advantage with early voting in several of them. Iowa Democrats had cast nearly 59,000 more early votes than Iowa Republicans through the end of last week. A state law there allows campaigns to petition election officials to open temporary voting locations, which have popped up in Mexican restaurants, evangelical churches and libraries. When Obama visited Cornell College in Mount Vernon the day after his second debate, a voting site was set up just across campus, with giant chalk-drawn arrows on sidewalks to guide students to cast their ballots. That day 433 people voted, according to Tim Box, the deputy commissioner of elections in Iowa's Linn County.

More early votes have been recorded this year in Nevada than were four years ago, and more than 35,000 more early votes have been cast by Nevada Democrats than by Republicans, giving Democrats a 46 percent to 36 percent lead in ballots cast in person by early voters.

But in some states, there are indications that Republicans are narrowing their early vote deficits. In North Carolina, about half of the 1.5 million votes received so far were cast by Democrats, giving them an advantage of nearly 20 percentage points above Republicans. It is a wide margin, but the question is whether it will be wide enough: Obama won the early vote in North Carolina by an even wider margin four years ago, McDonald noted.

And it was that wide margin that helped Obama win the state — the early vote propelled him to victory even though he received fewer votes than Sen. John McCain on Election Day.

Republicans have an edge in casting early votes in Colorado, where they have cast nearly 20,000 more than Democrats. Since Republicans in many states are more likely to wait until Election Day to cast their ballots, the party's mission in many places is simply to whittle away at the Democratic advantage in early voting — so that Democrats will have a smaller cushion of votes going into Election Day.

Some Republicans argue that the Democrats are effectively cannibalizing their Election Day turnout, saying that many of their early voters appear to be frequent voters who would vote anyway.

"Republicans have been focused on increasing turnout among those Romney supporters who are less likely to vote and banking those votes during the early voteperiod," a blog post on the Republican National Committee's website said.

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Application deadline is Friday, November 9, 2012
LeaderShape will be held January 18-23, 2013
Information Session To Be Held in Building 4-149 on November 1st, 2012 730pm – 830pm

Solution to Crossword

from page 7

N	E	U	T	R	I	N	O	■	O	M	E	R	T	A
A	N	T	E	A	T	E	R	■	N	O	T	A	R	Y
S	A	W	■	Y	U	R	T	■	G	R	A	Z	E	■
E	D	I	E	■	S	T	U	N	■	■	R	I	T	E
C	A	T	C	H	■	I	G	E	T	I	D	E	A	S
■	■	■	R	A	R	A	A	V	I	S	■	S	I	P
M	T	F	U	J	I	■	■	■	F	L	A	T	L	Y
E	V	A	■	J	O	B	O	F	F	E	R	■	■	■
A	R	C	H	I	T	E	C	T	■	T	O	S	C	A
L	E	T	A	■	■	E	C	H	O	■	D	O	E	R
■	M	O	L	A	R	■	L	E	N	D	■	F	R	I
D	O	T	I	M	E	■	U	N	C	O	A	T	E	D
E	T	U	D	E	S	■	D	R	U	G	D	E	A	L
C	E	M	E	N	T	■	E	Y	E	S	O	N	L	Y

Paek proposes paint

Paintballs could repel asteroid

Paintball, from Page 1

have observed that pressure from sunlight can alter the orbits of geosynchronous satellites, while others have proposed equipping spacecraft with sails to catch solar radiation, much like a sailboat catches wind.

In his proposal, Paek used the asteroid Apophis as a theoretical test case. According to astronomical observations, this 27 billion-ton rock may come close to Earth in 2029, and then again in 2036. Paek determined that five tons of paint would be required to cover the massive asteroid, which has a diameter of 1,480 feet. He used the asteroid's period of rotation to determine the timing of pellets, launching a first round to cover the front of the asteroid, and firing a second round once the asteroid's backside is exposed. As the pellets hit the asteroid's surface, they would burst apart, splattering the space rock with a fine, five-micrometer-thick layer of paint.

Paek determined that five tons of paint would be required to cover the massive asteroid.

From his calculations, Paek estimates that it would take up to 20 years for the cumulative effect of solar radiation pressure to successfully pull the asteroid off its Earthbound trajectory. He says launching pellets with traditional rockets may not be an ideal option, as the violent takeoff may rupture the payload. Instead, he envisions paintballs may be made in space, in ports such as the International Space Station, where a spacecraft could then pick up a couple of rounds of pellets to deliver to the asteroid.

Paek adds that paint isn't the only substance that such pellets might hold. For instance, the capsules could be filled with aerosols that, when fired at an asteroid, "impart air drag on the incoming asteroid to slow it down," Paek says. "Or you could just paint the asteroid so you can track it more easily with telescopes on Earth. So there are other uses for this method."

Lindley Johnson, program manager for NASA's Near Earth Objects Observation Program, says Paek's proposal is "an innovative variation" on a method used by others to capitalize on solar radiation pressure. For example, MESSENGER, a spacecraft orbiting Mercury, is equipped with solar sails that propel the craft with solar radiation pressure, reducing the fuel needed to power it.

"It is very important that we develop and test a few deflection techniques sufficiently so that we know we have a viable 'toolbox' of deflection capabilities to implement when we inevitably discover an asteroid on an impact trajectory," Johnson says.

William Ailor, principal engineer for Aerospace Corp. in El Segundo, Calif., adds that the potential for an asteroid collision is a long-term challenge for scientists and engineers.

"These types of analyses are really timely because this is a problem we'll have basically forever," Ailor says. "It's nice that we're getting young people thinking about it in detail, and I really applaud that."

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EVENTS OCT. 30 – NOV. 05

TUESDAY

(6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.) Climate and Conflict: Heat and Violence talk — N51, MIT Museum

(7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.) The 2012 Election and the Twilight of the Elites book discussion — Simmons Hall Multipurpose Room

WEDNESDAY

(12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.) Service Member, Veteran, and Family Wellness: What Is It, and Why Should We Care? — E40-496

THURSDAY

(5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.) Digitizing the Culture of Print: The Digital Public Library of America and Other Urgent projects — E14-633

(7:00 p.m.) *A Late Quartet* film screening — 26-100

FRIDAY

(3:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.) Energy Lecture Series: "A Day in the Life of the Grid" by FERC Chairman Wellinghoff — E25-111

(7:00 p.m., 10:00 p.m.) LSC shows *Moonrise Kingdom* — 26-100

SATURDAY

(8:00 p.m.) Persian Style Halloween Party — 50

(9:00 p.m. – 11:55 p.m.) Romanian dance party — W20-491

SUNDAY

(6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.) Shankar Tucker: Live in Concert, fusion Indian music — W16

MONDAY

(6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.) Disruptive Innovation: The Internet of Things & Long-range RFID + Sensors

Send your campus events to *events@tech.mit.edu*.

Solution to Techdoku

from page 6

5	6	4	2	1	3
6	1	5	3	2	4
3	4	2	6	5	1
1	2	6	4	3	5
2	3	1	5	4	6
4	5	3	1	6	2

Solution to Sudoku

from page 6

2	1	9	7	6	8	5	3	4
8	3	7	1	4	5	9	2	6
4	5	6	9	2	3	8	1	7
7	4	1	3	5	9	2	6	8
6	8	5	4	7	2	3	9	1
9	2	3	8	1	6	4	7	5
5	7	2	6	3	4	1	8	9
3	6	8	5	9	1	7	4	2
1	9	4	2	8	7	6	5	3

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Got Something to Say?

Dining ignites campu
Despite loud opposition, new plan s
By Maggie Lloyd
What's down with Town
Greening, MIT 150, real estate discusse
Former varsity sports, profiled
Money not the only problem
Two fraterni
PBE suspended for fo

Now you can!
Introducing **comments**
on *The Tech's* website
Make your voice heard

Hurricane Sandy causes MIT to shut down Monday

Rain to continue through the week; over 350,000 homes in Massachusetts without power

Sandy, from Page 1

8:30 p.m. through the MIT Alert system, and a campus-wide email was sent at 8:34 p.m.

Hurricane Sandy brought winds of nearly 65 miles an hour to Massachusetts Monday afternoon, with the Green Building weather station monitoring gusts peaking at 52 mph. There was severe flooding in New Jersey, as well of pockets of flooding throughout Massachusetts. Sandy is the second largest Atlantic storm in the past 24 years (which is how long hurricane data has been tracked), having broken Hurricane Lili's record from 1996. By press time Monday evening, over 350,000 homes in Massachusetts had lost power, and more blackouts are expected as the storm progresses.

The worst of the storm hit Massachusetts Monday afternoon — though Boston experienced only the outskirts of the storm. Sandy made landfall in New Jersey around 8:00 p.m. Monday, and as of this writing has been downgraded to a post-tropical cyclone. Rain will continue throughout Wednesday afternoon.

MIT will be open today, the Institute announced at 9:50 p.m. Monday through the emergency website, though it will have a delayed starting time of 9 a.m..

Preparations for Sandy

MIT took a number of steps to prepare for the storm. Residents in all dormitories were urged to keep a light source handy and to close their windows to prevent rain and wind damage. Jason Doucette, house manager of Next House, said in an email to the dorm that towels were available to students to help block their windows in case of leakage.

> **Residents in all dormitories were urged to keep a light source handy and to close their windows to prevent rain and wind damage.**

Roof drains and external drains of residence halls were cleaned of leaves to help prevent flooding, and water vacuums and sump pumps around campus were tested. MIT Dining received a number of large food deliveries Monday in case the storm caused transportation issues or food shortages. LaVerde's and Café Spice remained open Monday (Dunkin' Donuts, Subway, and Anna's Taqueria were only open for the morning), though the rest of the restaurants in W20 were closed. The menu at LaVerde's was limited, and a number of items on the grill were not available.

Facilities around MIT, including the Zesiger Center, were closed for the day. In an email to the athletics staff, Julie Soriero — director of athletics, physical education, and recreation — announced that if MIT closes, "all of our buildings, programs, practices, and PE classes will be cancelled."

How do you prepare for a hurricane?

Students were encouraged to pack loose items and move furniture away from windows — all of which should be closed and locked. Any items in outdoor areas should be brought indoors, and electronic devices should be unplugged. Cell phones should be charged before the storm. People should stay inside and be aware that the power might go out. While all dormitories have emergency generators for powering the fire alarms and hallway/exit lighting, bedrooms and apartments will lose power. In an email to all housemasters, Dennis Collins, director of residential life for capital renewal and construction, warned that if Massachusetts lost power, MIT's cogeneration plant would initially go down, activating the emergency generators. While the cogeneration plant should be able to restart within a few hours, those in the northwest area of campus who do not rely on the cogeneration plant may be on emergency power for a longer time.

"Power on campus is supplied by the Co-Gen plant," said Kirk D. Kolenbrander, vice president and secretary of the MIT Corporation. "It's quite reliable."

Collins' email also included other tips for weathering Sandy, such as things to include in a hurricane preparation kit ("useful items such as non-perishable food items and snacks, juices, soft drinks, bottled water, manual can opener, change of clothing, sturdy shoes, portable radio, first-aid kit, batteries, flashlight, eating utensils and containers for holding water. Refill prescription medicines," the email read). He also noted that refrigerators without power can safely hold food for up to 12 hours if they are opened infrequently.

Sandy in Boston

MIT was not the only school in the Boston area to close for the day. All public schools in the Boston metropolitan area were closed, and a number of other colleges — including Harvard University, Boston University, Babson College, Wellesley College, and Northeastern University — shut operations down on Monday in preparation for Sandy. Public schools should be open today.

In a press conference Sunday afternoon, Governor Deval Patrick requested schools to close and for Bay Staters to stay off the roads during Sandy.

Federal aid is now supplementing local efforts, as President Barack Obama signed an emergency declaration for Massachusetts Sunday afternoon.

> **MIT is not the only school in the Boston area to close for the day.**

Logan Airport remains open, though the reliability of individual airlines will vary. Danny Levy, a spokeswoman for the Massachusetts Port Authority, suggested that travelers "check with airlines before venturing to the airport," according to *The Boston Globe*.

Hurricane Sandy has been touted as the second "Perfect Storm" after the deadly storm of 1991, which inspired the 2000 film of the same name starring George Clooney and Mark Wahlberg. While the prior conditions for the storms are similar, they are not the same, and Sandy is not predicted to be as damaging.

Students who have problems with leaks or other storm-related issues should contact MIT Facilities at 617-253-1500. While MIT has increased the number of mechanics on shift for the next few days, those making calls should expect delays. More information about Hurricane Sandy can be found at the NOAA's website at *http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/*.

CHRISTOPHER A. MAYNOR—THE TECH

MIT Facilities workers board up a glass panel at the front entrance to Simmons that was blown out by high wind gusts on Monday night.

MANOHAR SRIKANTH—THE TECH

Workers take down portions of the covering over the scaffolding on the Great Dome Monday morning in preparation for Hurricane Sandy's high winds.

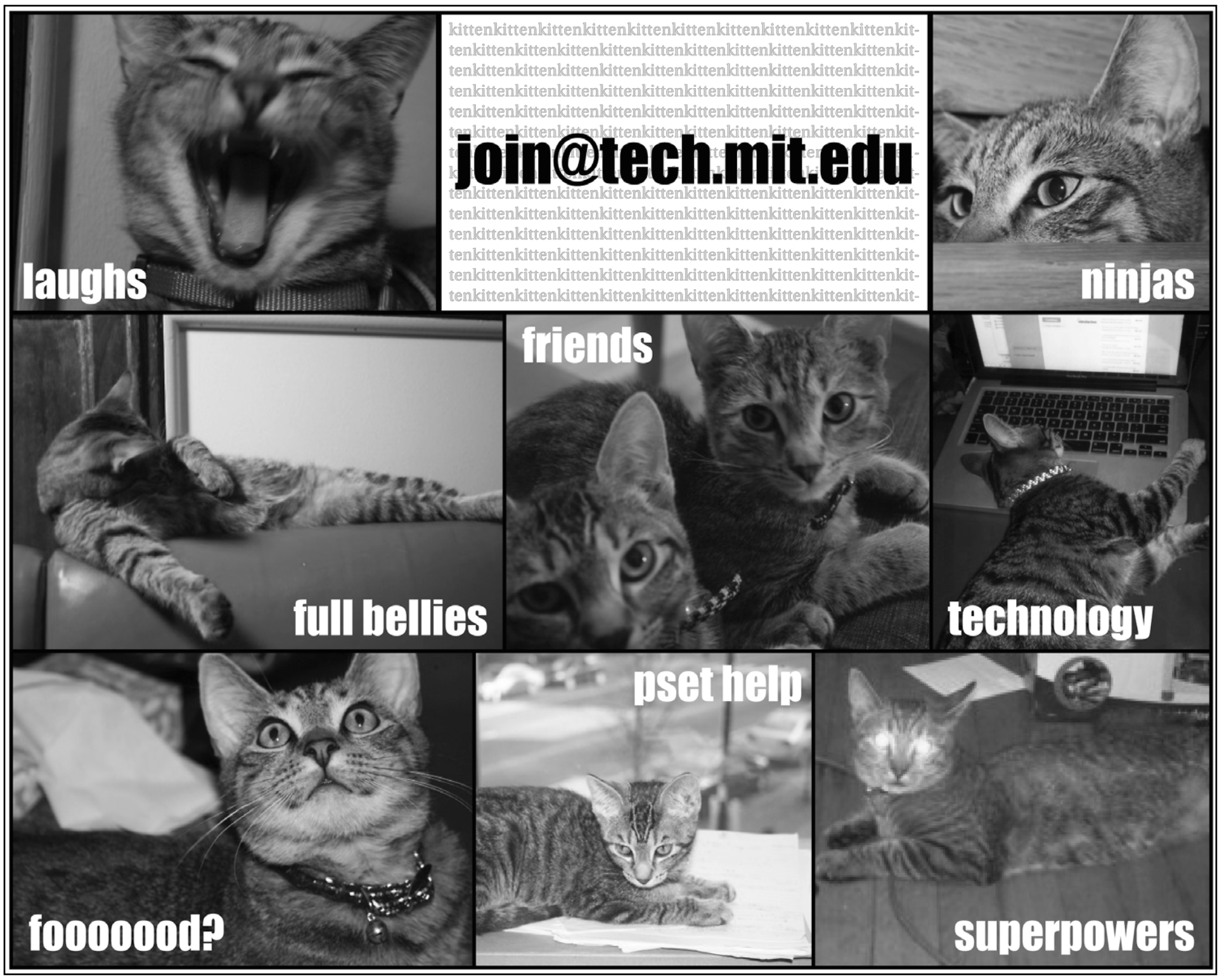
CHRISTOPHER A. MAYNOR—THE TECH

A runner braves the cold rain and howling winds on the Harvard Bridge brought about by the hurricane Monday afternoon.

The MIT Shakespeare Ensemble presents *The Taming of the Shrew*

EMILY KELLISON-LINN—THE TECH

Lucentio (Victor E. Cary '14), disguised as language tutor Cambio, attempts to woo Bianca (Keenan A. Sunderwirth '14) while Hortensio (Nicholas J. Benson '16) looks on jealously in the MIT Shakespeare Ensemble's performance of *The Taming of the Shrew*. The MIT Shakespeare Ensemble, composed of MIT students and community members who work together long-term to produce Shakespeare shows, performed Shakespeare's famous comedy on Friday and Saturday night in La Sala de Puerto Rico.



SPORTS

Expect a return of the Heat at championships

Lakers and Thunder come back hungry from the West, ready to dethrone the Heat

By Austin Osborne and Nicolas Lopez

Eastern Conference

Atlantic Division

1. Boston Celtics (4)
2. Philadelphia 76ers (5)
3. Brooklyn Nets (6)
4. New York Knicks (7)
5. Toronto Raptors

The Atlantic Division has become the most competitive division in the NBA practically overnight. With that said, the Boston Celtics are still the best team in the division, and they have improved significantly over the offseason. After losing Ray Allen in the offseason, the Celts signed Jason Terry and Courtney Lee to add depth to their off-guard position. Jeff Green also returns for the team, after missing all of last season with a heart condition. The most interesting move Boston made, however, is selecting Jared Sullinger with their first round pick. Sullinger was projected to be picked in the top 10 at one point last year, but his stock fell drastically due to injury concerns. The Celtics potentially got their power forward of the future in Sullinger if he can stay healthy. As long as Boston has Garnett, Pierce and Rondo, they will always be competitive come playoff time.

The 76ers are one of the most improved teams in the league. Near the end of a seemingly lackluster offseason, the Sixers became involved in the blockbuster trade that sent Dwight Howard to the Lakers by acquiring LA center Andrew Bynum. Although they lost their All-Star forward Andre Iguodala, Bynum is a legitimate superstar in the low post, which is something the Sixers have been lacking since the days of Moses Malone. They also signed gunners Nick Young and Dorrell Wright, both of whom should get plenty of open shots with Bynum commanding double teams. One of the Sixers' best under-the-radar moves was the acquisition of shooting guard Jason Richardson in the Bynum trade. Richardson is a proven veteran 3-point marksman, and he may even potentially step into a starting role. The bench remains one of the best in the league, even with the loss of Louis Williams, and Philadelphia should have no problem reaching the playoffs this year. If Jrue Holiday and Evan Turner can break through this season, the Sixers may even compete in the championship.

The Knicks were picked by many last season to challenge the Heat for the Eastern Conference last year, but they disappointed for the majority of the season. They received a shot in the arm from the unexpected advent of Jeremy Lin, but now Lin is gone and New York spent the offseason attempting to replace him at the point guard position. They signed future Hall of Famer Jason Kidd, but after last season, there are questions as to how much he has left in the tank in his 21st season. They also re-acquired Raymond Felton after a stint with the Nuggets and the Trailblazers. Felton played incredibly well in his first season with the Knicks, and he hopes to replicate that success this season. SF Ronnie Brewer also joins the Knicks and will add some tough defense off the bench. Until Carmelo Anthony and Amar'e Stoudemire prove that they can play together effectively for an entire season, however, the Knicks will continue to be a middle-of-the-road team.

Even though Toronto is last in the Atlantic in these predictions, it doesn't mean that they are not on their way to being a playoff-caliber team. With the offseason acquisitions of Kyle Lowry, Terrence Ross and Landry Fields, the Raptors have bolstered a backcourt that already was a position of strength (anchored by Jose Calderon and DeMar DeRozan). Calderon, however, will likely find himself as the odd man out at some point in the middle of the season, as the Raptors have already made efforts to trade him previously. The team's biggest weakness is their post play. Big man Andrea Bargnani plays a very European style of basketball, mostly spotting up from mid-range and outside. Although a very good shooter, Bargnani does not supply much force in the low post, and Toronto struggles against bigger teams because of it. It remains to be seen what last year's first round pick, 7-footer Jonas Valanciunas, will bring to the table in terms of toughness, but without a legitimate low post presence, the Raptors will continue to miss out on the playoffs. If Valanciunas can come in and grab some tough rebounds and get some garbage points, the team could go farther than anticipated.

Central Division

1. Indiana Pacers (2)
2. Chicago Bulls (3)
3. Cleveland Cavaliers
4. Milwaukee Bucks
5. Detroit Pistons

Indiana was one of the NBA's biggest surprises last season, but they shouldn't catch anyone off guard this year. This team is legitimately one of the most complete teams in the league and they aren't far off from competing for a title. Last season, their center Roy Hibbert was selected to his first All-Star team, and an argument can be made that he is currently the second best center in the East behind Andrew Bynum. They also have a legitimate top-level scoring wing in Danny Granger, a promising, athletic, young guard in Paul George and a proven veteran post presence in David West. George Hill showed that he could run a team last season when he took over the starting role at point guard, which eventually led to the trade of Darren Collison. With Tyler Hansbrough coming off the bench, this is one of the deepest teams in the league and they will make a lot of noise in the Eastern Conference this season.

Chicago will have to play much of their season without superstar point guard Derrick Rose once again this season. Rose is still recovering from his devastating ACL tear he suffered in last season's first round of the playoffs. Rose's injury eventually led to a first round exit at the hands of the 76ers. Rose missed much of last season, as he was plagued with injuries for much of the year. Chicago continued to win however, mostly due to their stifling defense led by center Joakim Noah and forward Luol Deng. They added some instant offense off the bench in the offseason with the signings of Nate Robinson and Marco Bellinelli. Chicago also solidified their backup point guard position after losing outstanding 6th man C.J. Watson by re-acquiring Kirk Hinrich. The Bulls will be able to ride their defense until Rose returns, and as long as he doesn't suffer any more critical injuries this season, they should be a force in the playoffs.

Cleveland is definitely on an upswing. Behind 2nd year point guard Kyrie Irving, the Cavaliers are returning to a culture of winning for the first time since Lebron left town. After drafting guard Dion Waiters, the Cavs hope that they have their backcourt of the future. They still have some rebuilding to do, as Anderson Varejao is the only starter-caliber player on their front line. Alonzo Gee showed promise last season averaging 10.6 points per game, but he is most likely not the answer at small forward. Last year's first round pick Tristan Thompson should improve after last season and the Cavs hope he can develop into their power forward of the future. With this young, talented core, Cleveland will reach the playoffs in due time. They are just too raw this year to make a splash in the top-heavy East.

Last season, the Bucks made the only blockbuster trade at the deadline, acquiring top-flight scorer Monta Ellis from the Golden State Warriors for the former #1 pick, center Andrew Bogut. The trade gave Milwaukee one of the most dynamic backcourts in the league with Ellis and Brandon Jennings. Both guards can score points in a hurry and teams will have trouble matching up with both. The Bucks' main problem, however, is their big men. Ersan Ilyasova was one of the most surprising players of last season, showing outside shooting touch and rebounding skill. He should improve more this season and be a very reliable 3rd option. Outside of Ilyasova, Milwaukee will have to shuffle between veteran Samuel Dalembert, shot-blocker Ekpe Udoh, Larry Sanders and 1st round pick John Henson. In the end, they will not have enough solid players in their frontcourt to compete for a playoff spot.

> **Ersan Ilyasova was one of the most surprising players of last season, showing outside shooting touch and rebounding skill.**

Detroit is currently in the middle of a rebuilding process. After their championship run spearheaded by the likes of Chauncey Billups, Richard Hamilton and Rasheed Wallace, they have struggled to return to that level of play ever since. They drafted an incredibly talented center in Greg Monroe, who is in his 3rd season. Monroe could definitely be in for a breakout year, especially after he averaged 15 points and 10 rebounds last season. He is definitely a player that Detroit can build around going forward, but he will not be able to lead them into the playoffs alone. Guard Rodney Stuckey has been a fixture of the franchise for the past several years and he continues to be one of the team's primary scoring options. He was forced to move to shooting guard last season, however, when the team drafted point guard Brandon Knight. Knight had a good rookie season, averaging 13 points per game and he should shoulder more of the load this season. He needs to bring up his assist numbers though if he wants to lead the Pistons back to the playoffs.

Southeast Division

1. Miami Heat (1)
2. Atlanta Hawks (8)
3. Washington Wizards
4. Charlotte Bobcats
5. Orlando Magic

Obviously the reigning champions, the Miami Heat, are a lock to make the playoffs this season. As if they weren't good enough already, they acquired former 3-point marksman Rashard Lewis and future Hall-of-Famer Ray Allen in the offseason to add depth to an already loaded team. Still lacking a true center, Miami will most likely play Chris Bosh in the middle for the majority of the season and move LeBron James to power forward. LeBron has shown to be dominant when playing down low, considering the vast percentage of his playoff minutes were played there. He uses his strength to overpower weaker defenders and speed to blow by slower, larger players. The Heat will continue to dominate teams night in and night out, and barring any significant injuries to James, Bosh or Dwyane Wade, they can punch their ticket to a third straight NBA Finals appearance.

Atlanta has completely changed the image of their team. Joe Johnson, the longtime face of the franchise, was traded to the Brooklyn Nets in the offseason, allowing the Hawks to basically get a mulligan on his huge contract. They retained explosive shot-blocking forward Josh Smith and will continue to build around him toward the future. They signed former Philly 6th man Lou Williams, who will definitely provide a much needed scoring punch after Johnson's departure. Jeff Teague returns as the team's starting point guard and he provides solid defense as well as good all-around play. He will need to take on more of a scoring role this year, but he should be up to the task. Center Al Horford will continue to develop and he hopes to avoid another major injury this season. If he can stay healthy, he gives the Hawks another legitimate low post option next to Josh Smith, and they will be able to pound teams in the post all season.

Washington goes as John Wall goes. The former number one pick is known to be one of the most explosive players in the league when in the open court, but if the Wizards wish to make the playoffs, Wall must develop a reliable jumpshot in the halfcourt setting. After trading for big men Nene and Emeka Okafor last season, Washington has one of the stronger frontcourt tandems in the league, especially defensively. Draft pick Bradley Beal out of Florida is said to be one of the best pure shooting prospects in recent memory, and forward Trevor Ariza will bring tough defense to the SF position. Washington lacks depth however, and even though they have put together a playoff-caliber starting lineup, their bench will be what undoes them this season. Outside of Jordan Crawford, no one can come off the bench and give the Wizards quality minutes, which will leave them just short of the playoffs in a weak Eastern Conference.

The Bobcats are coming off the worst season in NBA history. They set a record for lowest win percentage in a season, and they are currently on the 3rd longest losing streak of all-time, dropping their past 23 games. They won't contend for the playoffs for the next few seasons, but they are slowly building a core for the future. Last year's first round pick Kemba Walker has quickly emerged as one of the future centerpieces of the team, and Charlotte drafted forward Michael Kidd-Gilchrist this season. MKG is one of the most athletic players in the draft class and he will provide tough defense and solid rebounding to a Bobcats team that sorely needs it. They also drafted Bismack Biyombo last season out of Zaire. Biyombo is a shot blocking presence down low and as he plays more in the NBA, his instincts and timing will improve every season. They acquired Ramon Sessions and Ben Gordon in the offseason, both of which are solid veteran players. They will not make enough of a difference to make the team competitive, but it's a start.

Orlando is in complete disarray. After trading away their franchise player, Dwight Howard, they find themselves with a roster devoid of talent. It would have been impossible to receive equal value for a player like Howard, but the Magic really came out as the losers of the trade. They received rookie Maurice Harkless and 2nd year big man Nikola Vucevic from the 76ers and defensive guard Arron Afflalo from the Nuggets along with Al Harrington. Most importantly, they somehow were not able to get rid of Hedo Turkoglu's large contract in the trade, so they will be somewhat stuck with this roster for the foreseeable future. They did receive some draft picks as well, but considering Jameer Nelson has not been able to stay healthy the past few seasons, the team will have to rely on players such as Glen Davis, Afflalo and Harrington to stay competitive, which is not a formula for success. It'll be a long year for the Magic.

Western Conference

Pacific Division

1. Los Angeles Lakers (1)
2. Los Angeles Clippers (6)
3. Golden State Warriors (8)
4. Sacramento Kings
5. Phoenix Suns

With the acquisitions of Dwight Howard and Steve Nash during the offseason, the former being a former three-time Defensive Player of the Year with the Orlando Magic, the latter a former two-time League MVP during his tenure with the Phoenix Suns, the Los Angeles Lakers are now the heavy favorites to dominate the Western Conference. The Lakers are still lead by Kobe Bryant, who at age 34 has yet to show any major signs of slowing down, averaging at least 25 ppg for the last eight years, including a 27.9 ppg average last season. A foreseeable problem with the Lakers, however, is a lack of depth of the front line. Jordan Hill is in no way prepared to be a starting center in this league, however if Howard ever gets injured, this will be the Lakers unfortunate situation. With a starting five featuring three future hall of famers (Bryant, Howard, and Nash) and also often forgotten Pau Gasol (17.4 ppg, 10.4 rpg) the Los Angeles Lakers have argu-

NBA, Page 15

NBA, from Page 14

ably the best starting five in the league, and with newly acquired Antawn Jamison (17.2 ppg) to lead the bench unit, the Lakers are the team to beat in the West.

The Los Angeles Clippers seem to have the mentality that an entirely new team is needed every year in order to be competitive. Last season, the Clippers brought in nine new players, and this season, they added seven more new faces. The core unit of Chris Paul, Blake Griffin, and DeAndre Jordan are among the returning players, ensuring the continuation of Lob City and of the continued rise of the team formerly known as the Lakers' JV team. Jamal Crawford highlights this year's crop of newcomers. A former Sixth Man of the Year (2010), Crawford will look again to lead the bench unit with his instant offense. The return of Chauncey Billups from a season-ending Achilles tear means the Clippers will have solid guard play even when Chris Paul takes a rest. Injuries will be a large concern, as many of the Clippers' key players (Grant Hill, Matt Barnes, Chauncey Billups, Jamal Crawford, Lamar Odom, Caron Butler) are on the wrong side of 30. With a collection of veteran talent and unproven youth, if the old men go down, the Clippers are left in a rough spot; however Chris Paul alone is capable of dragging a team to the playoffs.

In a dramatic change of focus, at last season's trade deadline, the traditionally all offense, no defense Golden State Warriors traded away scoring machine Monta Ellis for defensive-minded center Andrew Bogut (8.3 rpg, 2.0 bpg in an injury-plagued season last year, 11.1 rpg, 2.6 bpg the year before). This offseason, the Warriors made a series of unglamorous, yet solid acquisitions: drafting Harrison Barnes and trading for PG Jarret Jack (15.6 ppg, 6.3 apg). Harrison Barnes out of UNC is a solid all-around player, yet known primarily for his polished offensive game. He should beat out SF Richard Jefferson for the starting job at small forward, joining the sweet shooting young backcourt of PG Stephen Curry (46 percent 3pt) and SG Klay Thompson (41 percent 3pt), along with the always solid PF David Lee (20.1 ppg, 9.6 rpg). Stephen Curry is primed to break out this season as a star if he can stay healthy. That is a big if. Curry missed 40 games last year due to recurring ankle injuries, however Jarrett Jack has proven to be capable of leading a team, so an injury to Curry will not be as traumatic as in years past. Look for Golden State to sneak into that last playoff spot.

The Sacramento Kings needed one of two things to happen this offseason for in order to be able to push for a playoff spot: either the rapid maturation of their young, but very talented core, or the acquisition of a mature veteran presence to give direction to this team. This offseason, the Kings signed Aaron Brooks, who played in China last season after spending the previous four years in Houston. He has shown to be a solid scoring option from his position in the past, but mature he is not. Combined with the immaturity of star young center DeMarcus Cousins, if Sacramento doesn't end their losing ways, the Kings locker room could become a toxic environment. An interesting player is swingman Tyreke Evans. His rookie season was on par with those of Oscar Robertson, LeBron James, and Michael Jordan as the only rookies to average 20pts, five rebounds, and five assists, yet his stats has since regressed inexplicably. If he can regain his form as a potential superstar, then Sacramento will be competitive. However that is unlikely. DeMarcus Cousins should emerge as the second best center in the west, behind only Dwight Howard, yet with the uncertainty surrounding the play of Tyreke Evans, don't look for the Kings to break out of the lottery this season.

The Phoenix Suns traded away their best player to a division rival for essentially nothing. That almost always spells for a horrible season, however all is not lost. The Suns were one of the busiest teams this offseason. They signed PG Goran Dragic to replace Steve Nash, signed talented, yet unfocused former second overall pick SF Michael Beasley, traded for former fourth overall pick Wesley Johnson, and outbid all other teams in claiming PF Luis Scola off waivers. A lot of young talent means a lot of growing pains this season. Marcin Gortat is quickly becoming one of the most consistent offensive centers in the league, and should continue that development. Look for him and Goran Dragic to form a potent scoring combination. Any other sources of offense will be a welcome surprise. Beasley has shown flashes in the past, and Wes Johnson has all the athleticism of an all-star swingman, but neither has demonstrated any consistency, and Johnson has been downright horrendous the past two seasons. As with any young team, defense will be a serious issue, which unfortunately for Phoenix seals their fate as a contender for the 1st pick this coming draft. With all the new faces, this will be an exciting, yet at the same time painful season for Suns fans.

Southwest Division

1.San Antonio Spurs (4)
2.Memphis Grizzlies (5)
3.Dallas Mavericks
4.New Orleans Hornets
5.Houston Rockets

The Spurs had a relatively uneventful offseason, and that might have been the best thing for them. They resigned all of their free agents, keeping together a team that went 50-16 in the shortened season last year. The core trio of Tony Parker, Manu Ginobili and Tim Duncan, although aging, still form one of the most formidable trios when healthy. Tony Parker, at age 30, is in the prime of his career and emerged last season as the undisputed star in San Antonio thanks in part to Duncan's decline in production. Wingman Kawhi Leonard has a year of NBA experience under his belt and should look to improve from an impressive rookie season as he continues to learn the NBA game. As with previous seasons, the main concern the Spurs have is age. With Tim Duncan at age 36, Ginobili age 35, and key reserve Stephen Jackson at age 34, the Spurs have a lot of wear and tear built up through the years. The Spurs do have the depth to deal with injuries with the likes of DeJuan Blair and Gary Neal, however like any other team, a prolonged injury will eventually take its toll. Look for the Spurs to have a very Spurs-

The core trio of Tony Parker, Manu Ginobili and Tim Duncan, although aging, still form one of the most formidable trios when healthy.

like season and finish in the top four of the conference.

For the Memphis Grizzlies, the major offseason move came as a minus: allowing O. J. Mayo to sign with division rival Dallas. Losing Mayo hurts, not only because Memphis loses their top scorer off the bench, but now Dallas adds a potential 20ppg scorer, making this already competitive division that much more competitive. As for the rest of the team, the same faces return who led Memphis to game seven of the Conference Semifinals two seasons ago. PG Mike Conley and SF Rudy Gay will provide the outside scoring fire, while bigmen Zach Randolph and Marc Gasol provide an inside presence rivaled by few other teams. The Grizzlies success is fueled by their defense, led by defensive specialist SG Tony Allen. The Grizzlies are experts in forcing turnovers, second in the league last year, and using these extra possessions powering their explosive offense. A remarkable aspect about Memphis is their adaptability, having shown to have success even when key players such as Rudy Gay or Zach Randolph are out for extended periods of time. Ironically, when the two are both healthy and playing together, the Grizzlies seem to be caught in between two styles: that of a low post, halfcourt offense designed around Randolph, and that of a high powered, run-and-gun perimeter oriented offense designed around Gay. How well Gay and Randolph can continue to coexist will determine the Grizzlies success this season.

The Dallas Mavericks had gambled it all on signing All-Star PG Deron Williams this past offseason, so when Williams decided to resign with the now-Brooklyn Nets, the Mavs needed to make some serious moves to build a respectable team. While not signing Williams, they also lost former Sixth Man of the Year SG Jason Terry to the Celtics and future Hall of Fame PG Jason Kidd to the Knicks. To fill the holes in the roster created by their absence, Mark Cuban brought in SG O. J. Mayo, C Chris Kaman, PG Darren Collison, and PF Elton Brand. All four of them have starting experience and in some way or another are looking for fresh new start. Darren Collison, much like O. J. Mayo as well, has shown flashes of brilliance, yet has not yet put it all together to become a top player at his position. Kaman will provide a nice compliment to PF Dirk Nowitzki in the post, although both prefer to take jumpers, Kaman does have some nice back to the basket moves. Overall, this team has changed drastically from the team that won the championship two years ago, how quickly the new pieces and the existing system can mold to each other will determine their success. I don't believe it will happen this year.

With the first overall pick in last summer's draft, it was no surprise when the New Orleans Hornets selected PF Anthony Davis out of Kentucky. Davis's freakish athleticism and long wingspan lead to him blocking an outstanding 4.7 bpg. His offensive skills are still a little raw, but his length and shotblocking should translate well to the NBA, so look for him to make an immediate impact on the defensive end of the floor. Also selected in the draft was Duke guard Austin Rivers. While a prolific scoring guard in college, it might take a year or two of adjustment to the NBA game for Rivers to fully realize his potential, but he will be backing up Eric Gordon, meaning he will have the chance to learn from one of the top shooting guards in the league. Gordon plays a key factor in the Hornets' hopes for this season. When healthy, he can be an unstoppable scoring weapon who can also defend the top players as well, but he is not healthy often. He only played in nine games last season due to cartilage damage in his right knee. Reports now are saying that Gordon may still be feeling discomfort in that knee, fingers crossed Gordon does not become the next Brandon Roy, or worse Greg Oden.

After missing out on the Dwight Howard lottery and now fresh into the rebuilding process, the Houston Rockets were one of the more aggressive teams this offseason. By using ridiculously backloaded offersheets, Houston snatched Jeremy Lin and Omer Asik from New York and Chicago respectively, who were unable to match the contracts, and then traded SG Kevin Martin and a handful of picks to the Thunder for SG James Harden. Both Lin and Asik are expected to be starters. Lin has experience running the Knicks offense, however for Asik, this will be his first starting job. For a defensive minded center with absolutely no offense whatsoever, the Rockets may be asking a bit much from him. In addition to Lin and Asik and Harden, the Rockets have three rookies who look to make key contributions: PF Royce White from Iowa State, PF Terrence Jones from Kentucky, and C Donatas Montiejunas from Lithuania. Although at times inconsistent, he will be asked to lead this team along with Lin, as the two of them are by far the most talented players on this roster. Depending on how well the rookies play and how Harden plays being relied upon as a first scoring option will determine if the rockets spend the year scrapping the bottom of the division or competing for a final playoff spot.

Northwest Division

1.Oklahoma City Thunder (2)
2.Denver Nuggets (3)
3.Utah Jazz (7)
4.Minnesota Timberwolves
5.Portland Trailblazers

After reaching the NBA Finals last season, the Oklahoma City Thunder didn't need to make many changes to their roster. The biggest move they made this offseason was extending PF Serge Ibaka, who led the NBA in blocks this past season with a staggering 3.6 bpg. Now considering Ibaka's extension, the Thunder have $54 million reserved for four players (SF Kevin Durant, PG Russell Westbrook, Ibaka, and C Kendrick Perkins), leaving little for extending reigning 6th man of the year SG James Harden, and so traded him to Houston for SG Kevin Martin, who is expected to slide into Harden's role as sixth man. Expect the Thunder, still led by the All-Star duo of Kevin Durant and Russell Westbrook, and to remain atop the Western Conference Standings for most of the season. Durant led the league in scoring last season with 28ppg, and at only 24 years of age, as scary as it is, he is still getting better. In fact, the Thunder as a team has only one player on their roster who is older than 29 (Nick Collison is 31). So while they are already among the NBA elite, they are still one of the youngest teams, meaning a dynasty is well within reach for this always improving squad.

As part of the trade that sent Dwight Howard to the Lakers, the Denver Nuggets received swingman and defensive specialist Andre Iguodala from the Philadelphia 76ers and sent SG Aaron Afflalo to the Orlando Magic. Iguodala is a pretty sizeable upgrade from Afflalo, as Iguodala is arguably the best on-ball defender in the NBA and his athleticism should be a nice fit in the run and gun Nuggets offense. Also this offseason, the Nuggets resigned C JaVale McGee, who was brought in late last season in exchange for C Nene, to a four-year contract. The Nuggets are one of the most formidable teams in the West due to their intense pressure defense and also, albeit somewhat counterintuitive, due to their lack of starpower. Unlike a traditional team where only three or four players are "scorers," Denver's entire roster is a threat offensively. PG Ty Lawson, SFs Wilson Chandler and Danilo Galinari, and even PF Kenneth Faried are all capable of going off for 30, and this lack of certainty as to which player to defend allows for Denver to surprise many of the elite teams and steal some victories. This season, expect Lawson's continued development to put him into the conversation as a possible all-star as he leads Denver's charge to the top of the West.

The Minnesota Timberwolves are probably the most intriguing team this season, in large part due to the NBA comeback of former superstar SG Brandon Roy.

And after just two quick seasons, the Devin Harris era in Utah has come to an end. The main return in the Deron Williams trade, this offseason Harris was dealt to the Atlanta Hawks for SF Marvin Williams. To replace Harris in the starting lineup, the Jazz brought in PG Mo Williams from the Los Angeles Clippers. As always, Utah will be lead by the post tandem of Al Jefferson and Paul Millsap, with PF Derrick Favors coming off the bench. Utah's height is what gives them an advantage over most other teams in the league, but with Favors having already expressed unhappiness in his role as a reserve, some of Utah's bigmen may get moved this season. Also in the starting lineup, SF Gordon Hayward has shown steady development in each of his two seasons so far, doubling his scoring output last season from that of his rookie season. While Utah has two of the best post scorers in the league in Jefferson and Millsap, for Utah to succeed, they must get a perimeter scoring threat as well. It was hoped that Harris would be that scorer like he was when he was a Net, however after two mediocre years, Utah fans now must pray that Mo Williams can fill that role.

The Minnesota Timberwolves are probably the most intriguing team this season, in large part due to the NBA comeback of former superstar SG Brandon Roy. Roy had to retire last season after suffering cartilage damage in both of his knees, however know believes them to be ready to go. Ricky Rubio, after a spectacular rookie season, suffered a torn ACL at the end of the year and will be out for some time to start the year, but expect him to pick up right where he left off when he returns. PF Kevin Love is arguably the best PF in the NBA, and forms a deadly pick and roll combination with Rubio. It will be interesting to see if PF Derrick Williams can show why he was the No. 2 pick in last year's draft after a disappointing rookie season. He certainly has talent, but maybe playing behind Love is affecting his confidence in his abilities. C Nikola Pekovic had a break out year last season and his bruising physical game is a nice compliment to Love's faceup game in the post. Timberwolves fans are finally starting to see the development of their young talent translate into wins for the franchise, and this season expect the Wolves to be right in the hunt for the last playoff spot.

The Portland Trailblazers are now in full rebuilding mode. They traded SF Gerald Wallace at the end of last season to the Nets for a first round pick that turned out to be explosive PG Damian Lillard. He is an early favorite to win Rookie of the Year along with New Orleans PF Anthony Davis. Joining Lillard is fellow rookie C Meyers Leonard, who may end up being the team's starting center. PF LaMarcus Aldridge made his first NBA All-Star appearance last season and will shoulder much of the scoring load for this young Blazers squad. SF Nick Batum returns with raised expectations after signing a 4 year, $46 million contract. He will join shooter Wes Mathews in the starting lineup along with Lillard, Aldridge, and Leonard. This Blazers team will struggle. They have too many young players and will need a couple years to fully develop into a playoff team. Batum will have to perform now with the pressure to live up to his contract, which he may not have the ability to do, and Lillard, like all rookie point guards, will have his ups and downs. Aldridge will be solid like always, but there's only so much that one player can do. The Blazers better spend most of the year scouting prospects as they will have no chance to escape the lottery this season.

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